

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the following claims 1-6 and 9-12 as follows. Please cancel claims 7 and 8. A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing replaces all previous listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:

a portable chip card reader in a format of a PC card;

a portable chip card for coupling with the portable chip card reader and having personal information stored thereon;

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the portable chip card reader;

a validation means for validating the personal information read from the portable chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity and authorization check of the user; and

wherein the fingerprint sensor module comprises an interface for a connection to a network.

2. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the fingerprint sensor module is coupled with the portable chip card reader by a detachable plug connection.

3. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 2, wherein the fingerprint sensor module is adapted to be slipped onto a narrow end face of the portable chip card reader from which the card projects.
4. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 3, wherein a slot is disposed in the fingerprint sensor module for the portable chip card to pass there through.
5. (Currently Amended) The security system according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the fingerprint sensor module includes a portable SAM or SIM card reader.
6. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 5, wherein the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module is processed along with the data read from the portable SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the fingerprint sensor module to yield an encoded identity information.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the message signed by the characteristic data set provided by the fingerprint sensor module is ~~are~~ able to be exchanged with the communication environment via the interface.

10. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the portable chip card reader and the fingerprint sensor module are provided with first and second local buses, respectively, the buses being coupled with each other via a detachable plug connection.

11. (Currently Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the portable chip card reader is equipped with an interface for a connection to a local host device to establish a secure communication between the local host device and the network.

12. (Currently Amended) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:

a portable chip card reader in a format of a portable PC card;

a portable chip card for coupling with the portable chip card reader and having personal information stored thereon;

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the portable chip card reader;

a validation means for validating the personal information read from the portable chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity card authorization check of a user; and

wherein the fingerprint sensor module is coupled with the portable chip card reader by a detachable plug connection and including a portable SAM or SIM card reader, the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module being processed along with

the data read from the portable SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the module to yield an encoded identity information.